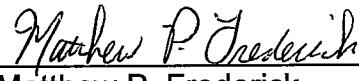


Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims of the present application, as amended herein, recite subject matter that is patentable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that the application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew P. Frederick
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 60,469

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART PRESTON GATES ELLIS LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312
Telephone: 412.355.6271

Customer No. 25,074